

HURRICANE WINDS

Ben Hill County Schools Newsletter: January 2026

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HURRICANE HEALTH CLINIC OPENS AT FHSCCA



It is a GREAT day to be a Cane! 🎉

We are thrilled to announce that the Hurricane Health Clinic at FHSCCA is officially OPEN to the public! We celebrated our ribbon cutting this morning alongside our partners at South Central Primary Care and the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Chamber of Commerce.

Our goal is simple: provide excellent, efficient medical care to our staff, students, and their families right here on campus.

👋 Come meet your care team with South Central Primary Care:

Rebecca Dawson, FNP

Johnesha Swain, Clinical Coordinator

Hayden Hamby, Licensed Clinical Counselor

Jeffrey Windom, Licensed Clinical Counselor

Cassandra Windom, Medical Assistant

📍 Where: 553 Ocilla Highway (Private access on the front of the school)

🕒 Hours: Monday-Friday | 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

A huge thank you to Superintendent Stevie Harden, the BHCS Board of Directors, L E Harper Construction, and everyone who worked on the grant committee to make this vision a reality!

Staff Perfect Attendance: December 25

BHPK: Kristy Acree, Gwendolyn Bozeman, Cedric Brown, Samantha Cone, Jenalea Dias, Paige Dorminy, Jennifer Giddens, Debra Lampkin, Haley Luckie, Alyssa McKie, Brenda Rowe, Penny Turner, Ingrid Watts, Suzanne Williams, & Debbie Wright

BHP: Kristie Bagwell, Kandace Carelock, Pamela Carter, Sherry Clements, Nikki Cobb, Christy Cook, Bonnie Cook, Amanda Griffin, Beverly Grimes, John Hadden, Melissa Hannon, Diane Hardin, Christy Jacobs, Kamilah Johnson, Bailey Miller, Traci Morgan, Reese Morgan, Leanna Morris, Ella Newell, Dea Parten, Karen Peck, Christopher Pridgen, Mackenzie Rathburn, Carrie Ray, Suzanne Reaves, Benita Reese, Sheila Reynolds, Ora Ring, Cynthia Roberts, Ashley Roberts Katelyn Stubbs, Lauren Stubbs, Cheryl Tucker, Bernandine Walker, Paula Washington, Jennifer Wiley, and Dena Windom.

BHES: Dewanna Bennett, Anna Branch, Kara Day, Samantha Dollar, Christina Edwards-Buchanan, Brittany Hammond, Stephanie Harris, Georgia Johnson, Emily Johnson, Blake Kerr, Kristen Kidd, Kristie King, Marissa Morgan, Alana Pearce, Mary Peterson, Nan Phillips, Brandi Pitts, Caleb Powell, Hannah Pridgen, Anna Reeves,

VEX ROBOTICS WIN BIG AT VIKING CLASH

What a day at the VEX Robotics Viking Clash! 🏆😊

Huge congrats to Teams 37116A, 37116B, 37116C, and 37116D— all qualified for Alliance Selection and the final elimination matches! 🏆👏

Highlights:

37116C: Entered eliminations ranked #2 overall 🔥

37116B: 2nd place Skills ranking overall; 37116C placed #3 in Skills ⚙️🌟

Awards:

Design Award — Team 37116B 🛠️📁

Recognizes outstanding engineering process, project/time management, and a fully developed Engineering Notebook + strong Team Interview.

Incredible documentation, teamwork, and professionalism!

Excellence Award — Team 37116C 🌟🤖

The highest award at any tournament — recognizing overall excellence in judged criteria and on-field performance. This win earns Team 37116C a ticket to the VEX Robotics State Championship! 🏆🎟️

So proud of every Rooster City Robotics competition team member who gave it their all in this competition — amazing work and well deserved!

We'd also like to thank Dr. Megan Osborn for not only making us team shirts, but also donating them to our students and program. Her support does not go unnoticed!



Staff Perfect Attendance: December 25

Allyson Roberts, Mallory Sandiford, Sonya Smith, Zach Smith, Mary Ellen Troupe, Emma Tucker, Shayla Ward-Wilcox, Ollie White, & Cassandra Wynn.

BHMS: Sandy Anderson, Tony Ballew, Melissa Bracewell, Annesly Castanon, Martellis Curtis, James Curtis, Kensey Davis, Tiffany Dixon, Dana Dunn, Ashton Fehr, Catherine Gay, Debra Hamlin, Anna Howell, Austin Johnson, Karen Kelly, Phillip Moore, Michael Nelms, Nikki Newcomb, Todd Ragle, Barbara Riehle, Jessica Smith, Venice Steverson, & Bridget Young

FHSCCA: Raheeluddin Ahmed, Janean Anderson, Robyn Andrews, Tykevias Bailey, Jerry Breeden, Jeanne Brooks, Sheri Brown, Amber Clark, John Davis, April Dockery, Myra Durden, Christina Eldridge, Kenneth Eldridge, Paige Farabow, Adriana Gregusova, Cynthia Hendrix, Blane Jacobs, Claudia Kaminsky, Joi Kinnett, Candy Lokey, Malia Mann, Regina Massey, Timothy McArthur, Warren McCorvey, Jason McDonald, Kelly Neal, Jennifer Putnal, Samantha Reaves, Sherard Reynolds, Angela Stone, Katelyn Sutton, Wesley Tankersley, Bree Tankersley, Harry Tucker, Hannah Walker, & Jalee Wilson

Central Office: Barney Hamlin, Stephen Harden, Samantha McFarland, Roger Merritt, Allisha Parr, & Matt Smith

Transportation: Tracy Barnes, Carla Pugh, Edward Starkey, Todd Thompson, Regina Adkinson, Gene Batchelor, Travis Bozeman, Kristin Collier, Tammy Dobbins, Mary Gallagher,

ROCK YOUR SCHOOL ~ BHP



Staff Perfect Attendance: December 25

Tony Griffin, Martin Hough, Charles King, Garrett McCord, Leroy Shirk, Kathy Taylor, Trisha Thames, David Tucker, & Latoya Wilcox.

School Nutrition: Grable Coleman, Glendell Holland, Kimberly Raines, Olivia Richardson, Tytiana Richardson, Joann Veal, Peggy Campbell, Rachel Clay, Gwendolyn Cook, Thelma Holland, Charlotte Jackson, Laverne Harris, Teresa Hill, Faye Jackson, Iris Paulk, Karen Adkinson, Jessica Adkinson, Allene Brown, Osie Spring, Franklin Williams, Michelle Carver, Marilyn Jackson, Tanya Kendall, & Karen Naylor

BHP proudly participated in ROCK Your School Day, and it was a tremendous success for both students and staff. Engagement and participation were at an all-time high as students enjoyed a variety of hands-on, interactive learning experiences throughout the day. Kindergarten students explored a mix of themed activities, including camping adventures, GLOW day experiences, sports, and carnival fun.

First Grade classrooms traveled back in time with a dinosaur theme, featuring fossil digs and creative prehistoric activities, with students and staff dressed in dinosaur gear.

Second Grade embraced a carnival theme, “The Greatest Show Begins,” where students rotated through games and stations and enjoyed a special popcorn treat.

Activity classes joined the celebration all week with igloo-themed challenges in STEM and camping-themed activities in the library.

ROCK Your School Day was a joyful reminder of how engaging, themed learning experiences can inspire creativity, collaboration, and excitement for learning across our school community.



BEN HILL EDUCATION FOUNDATION DONATES TO TEACHERS THROUGH INNOVATION GRANTS

🎉 Ben Hill Innovative Grants for 2026 Announced! 🎉

The Ben Hill Education Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of our 2026 Innovative Grants! We are so grateful for every application and honored to support the amazing work being done to promote student success.

This year's grant recipients are:

Ben Hill Primary (BHP)

🌱📖 Project Spotlight: Outdoor Classroom at Ben Hill Primary 📖🌱

Tiffany Coleman: Outdoor Learning Venue – \$956.95

📖🌟 Project Spotlight: Enhancing Student Literacy 🌟📖

Melissa Hannon: Enhancing Student Literacy – \$400.00

Total BHP Donation: \$1,356.95

Ben Hill Elementary School (BHES)

🔬 Project Spotlight: Seeing the Invisible 🔬

Caleb Powell: Seeing the Invisible (Microscopes for all four 5th-grade teachers) – \$1,123.96

🔑 Project Spotlight: Crack the Code 🔑

Erin Hester: 3rd Grade Math and Science Escape Room

(All 3rd Grade) – \$2,050.00

📖🔍 Project Spotlight: Curiosity Begins with a Story 🔍📖

Brittany Hammond: Curiosity Begins with a Story – \$480.00

Total BHES Donation: \$3,653.96

Fitzgerald High School College & Career Academy (FHSCCA)

🌿 Project Spotlight: Farm to School Garden 🌿

David Evans: Farm to School Garden – \$1,000.00

💙 Project Spotlight: Cozy Corner 💙

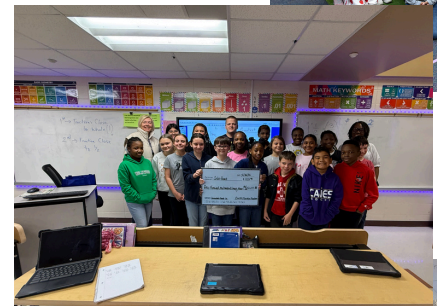
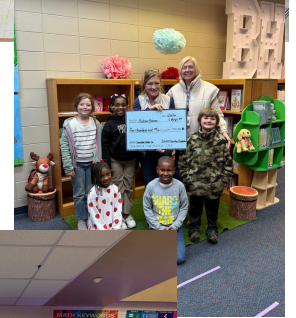
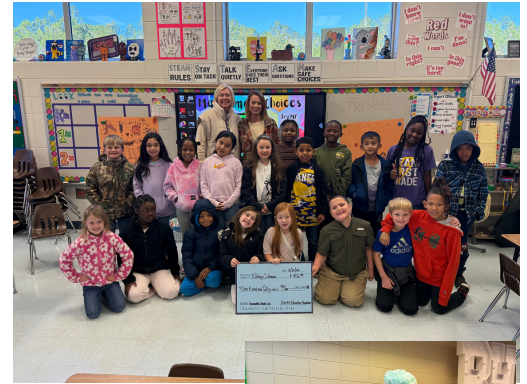
Hannah Walker: Cozy Corner – \$300.00

💙 Project Spotlight: Self-Regulation & Sensory Center 💙

Jeanne Brooks: Self-Regulation and Sensory Center – \$1,000.00

Total FHSCCA Donation: \$2,300.00

This year, we had a \$7,500 grant budget and were thrilled to award \$7,310.91 directly to impactful projects. Thank you for all you do for our students and community. We look forward to celebrating our recipients soon!



BHMS SCIENCE ~ HUMAN BODY PROJECT

Students in Mrs. Giddens's 7th grade science classes brought the human body to life! Students designed and constructed a model and explained in oral presentations the function of each body system and how these systems work together to keep us healthy. Great example of teamwork!



100TH DAY OF SCHOOL ~ BHP

Happy 100th Day of School 🎉

★ We are so proud of our students and their growth in the first 100 days!

★ Classes had fun today with special activities, headbands, etc. and students & staff joined in on the fun by wearing 100 day t-shirts or dressing like they were 100 years old!



BHP: CROSS' CLASS

Classroom Highlight: Ms. Cross' classroom recently learned about length, measurements, and vocabulary terms such as longer and shorter. For heightened engagement, students became the models and created math minded sentences to support comparing length!

Great job, Ms. Cross on maximizing student engagement and supporting math minded sentences and cross-curricular learning!



PARENT MEETING FOR ALL SCHOOLS PLANNED:

Let's Talk!
PARENT MEETING
ALL GRADES!

All parents and guardians are invited to join us for important information session regarding resources for students with disabilities.

FEBRUARY 3RD
6:00 PM

Fitzgerald High School College and Career Academy
553 Ocilla Highway
Fitzgerald, GA 31750

Your participation makes a difference!

CONTACT US
229-409-5530
amber.clark@benhillschools.org

The flyer features a colorful illustration of a diverse group of people, including a woman with a dog, a man with a child, and a woman in a wheelchair, all smiling. A megaphone icon is also present.



BHP DONATES TO CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS GROUP OF COFFEE COUNTY

BHP is so proud to have raised \$1,827.15 to support Childhood Cancer



WE GOT SPIRIT, YES WE DO, WE GOT SPIRIT, HOW ABOUT YOU?? GO CANES!



Canes

Winter Break- Friday, February 13th & Monday, February 16th. Return to school Tuesday, February 17th.

For more information daily, please check our website at www.ben-hill.k12.ga.us or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/benhillschools.org>